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EVEN AS YOU READ THIS, THE DARKEST FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE HAS SLOWLY, INSIDIOUSLY INFILTRATED OUR PLANET...GRANTING POWER UNDREAMED-OF TO THE MOST DESPICABLE VILLAINS IN EARTH'S HISTORY. EVEN NOW, HAVOC REIGNS, AND THE WORLD IS A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM UTTER COLLAPSE.

FELLOW WARRIORS! WE ARE VICTORIOUS!

WE HAVE SET IN MOTION A PLAN THAT WILL GRANT OUR LEADER HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH!

LEAVE *GLOATING* FOR ANOTHER EVE! WE HAVE ONLY GRANTED NEW ***POWER*** TO EARTH'S CRIMINAL ***ELITE!*** WE HAVE YET TO ***SEE*** OUR PLAN TO *FRUITION!*

ONE SLIM HOPE REMAINS FOR THE HUMAN RACE ONE SHINING BEAM OF LIGHT AGAINST THE DARKNESS... AS THE SUPER-HEROES ARE ENLISTED IN A...

# "CLASH AGAINST CHAOS"

JACK KIRBY — PLOT
JOEY CAVALIERI — SCRIPT
ADRIAN GONZALES — PENCILS
PABLO MARCOS — INKS
BOB LAPPAN — LETTERER
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IT MATTERS NOT! NOTHING CAN SWAY US FROM THE PATH TO TRIUMPH!

WARRIORS FROM OUR WORLD ARE CUNNING, STRONG, AND WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST... BUT THESE EARTH VILLAINS POSSESS A *MANIACAL TENACITY*... A *MAD FIXATION* ON THEIR GOALS... THAT WE CANNOT *RIVAL*.

"TAKE *LEX LUTHOR*... AND HIS OBSESSIVE HATRED FOR SUPERMAN!

"I GAVE HIM THE POWER OF *TIME DISTORTION* TO SLOW HIS ENEMY AND FLASH, THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE, DOWN TO A CRAWL.

"LUTHOR HAS MADE THEM HIS *SLAVES*! HE TOYS WITH THEM AS ONLY A TRUE PREDATOR CAN!"

OBSESSIVE! MANIACAL! THIS, TOO, DESCRIBES THE *PENGUIN*!

"NOT ONLY DID I BOOST HIS MASTERY OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR... WHICH AT THIS MOMENT ARE CONGESTING EVERY MAJOR CITY... NEW YORK... LOS ANGELES... GOTHAM... METROPOLIS...

"BUT I ENABLED HIM TO NEUTRALIZE THE WILL POWERS OF GREEN LANTERN AND AQUAMAN!

"THEIR MUCH-VAUNTED ABILITIES ARE NOW *USELESS*!"

MORE HELPLESS ARE BATMAN, ROBIN, AND HAWKMAN!

"IT FELL TO ME TO GRANT THE JOKER HIS HEART'S DESIRE...

"A PSYCHOACTIVE DIMENSION WHERE HIS BASEST *WHIM* WAS GRANTED... WHEREIN HE ENSNARED HIS ENEMIES--AND HAWKMAN.

"AT THIS SECOND, HE HAS THEM PLUMMETING ENDLESSLY THROUGH A DARKNESS THAT HAS NO END!"

I HAVE BEQUEATHED INCREDIBLE POWER TO QUITE POSSIBLY THE MOST ERRATIC OF THE FOUR...BRAINIAC, THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLECT GONE AWRY!

"I COULD TEMPT HIM ONLY WITH THE PROMISE OF KNOWLEDGE.

"THE KNOWLEDGE HE WOULD GAIN WHEN MY POWER TO AWAKEN RACIAL MEMORIES REVERTS WONDER WOMAN AND THE AMAZONS TO THEIR WARLIKE STATE!

"BRAINIAC'S PLAN IS TO RECORD DATA AS THE AMAZONS BLAZE NEW MASTERY OVER THE EARTH..."

BUT THIS PLAN WILL TAKE *TIME* TO FULFILL ITS POTENTIAL... FOR *SHEER CHAOS!*

AT THAT SAME MOMENT...

FEELS LIKE...WE'RE MOVING...THROUGH *GELATIN.*

LUTHOR'S TIME DISTORTION POWER...SLOWED US DOWN TO A *HALT*...MAKING EVERYONE *ELSE*... LOOK LIKE THEY'RE MOVING AT *SUPER-SPEED!*

WHERE...*IS* YOUR ENEMY, SUPERMAN? I... I DON'T...*SEE* HIM!

OF *COURSE* YOU DON'T SEE ME, YOU PATHETIC *WRETCH.*

TO *YOU*, I'M MOVING SO FAST AS TO BE VIRTUALLY *INVISIBLE!* IF I *SLOW DOWN* A TAD... I *MIGHT* COME INTO VIEW!

NOW I SEE... HUNDREDS OF HIM!

AND HOW ABOUT YOU, SUPERMAN? ARE YOU GETTING A GOOD LOOK?

I WANT YOUR *UNDIVIDED ATTENTION* AS I GIVE YOUR *OBSOLETE* FRIEND A CHARGE FROM MY *WARSUIT!*

OBSERVE *FURTHER* HOW YOUR COMPATRIOT TWITCHES IN PAIN LIKE SOME LABORATORY ANIMAL! I CANNOT *WAIT* TO TOY WITH *YOU* IN SIMILAR MANNER.

ONLY, *YOUR* TORTURE WILL BE *MORE INTRICATE*... AND CERTAINLY, GREATLY *PROLONGED!*

IT *CANNOT* END THIS WAY! IT *MUST* NOT!

IT'S HORRIBLE ENOUGH FOR LUTHOR TO TRY TO EXACT HIS TWISTED REVENGE ON ME... BUT THE *FLASH* IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN US! HE--

WAIT! OF COURSE!

4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

# IMAGINE! OREO® COOKIES EVERYWHERE!!

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I KNOW AN *INVISIBLE AURA* PROTECTS THE FLASH AGAINST FRICTION, SO I CAN SHINE MY HEAT VISION AROUND HIM TO *SPEED UP* THE MOLECULES OF HIS BODY!

*ENJOYING* YOUR FRIEND'S *ANGUISH*, SUPERMAN? TELL ME...HOW SHALL I ARRANGE *YOUR* DEMISE?

PERHAPS SLOW KRYPTONITE POISONING...

IT'S *WORKING!* HIS MOLECULES ARE STARTING TO *SPEED UP*... MAKING HIS WHOLE BODY *OSCILLATE*...

OR A DOSE OF RED SOLAR RADIATION...WHILE I BEAT YOU TO A BLOODY *PULP*?

GOT TO *STEP* UP THE BEAM OF HEAT... *INTENSIFY* IT!

*THERE!* HE'S PICKING UP SPEED..VIBRATING THROUGH THE VERY GROUND ITSELF!

YOU THINK TO *IGNORE* ME, DO YOU? *THAT* WILL NOT LAST!

I WANT YOU TO *BEG ME* FOR YOUR LIFE...LIKE THE MISERABLE MENDICANT YOU ARE! DO YOU HEAR? *BEG!*

A LITTLE BIT FARTHER...AND THE FLASH WILL BE...

*FREE!* I'M *AWAY* FROM LUTHOR'S TIME DISTORTION INFLUENCE...AND OUT OF HARM'S WAY!

WELL, NOT QUITE!

I MANAGED TO VIBRATE MY WAY *UNDERGROUND* ONTO THE SUBWAY TRACKS... AND ONTO THE PATH OF AN ONCOMING TRAIN!

NO TIME TO RUN. ONLY WAY TO AVOID *IMPACT*...

...IS TO *VIBRATE* CLEAR *THROUGH* IT!

PARDON ME, SIR...

BEG PARDON, MA'AM!

SUBWAY

I DON'T CARE HOW LONG IT TAKES YOUR TIME-DISTORTED BODY...

YOU *WILL* KNEEL BEFORE ME!

KNEEL... BEFORE THE FUTURE *EMPEROR OF EARTH*...

SUBWAY

LUTHOR... THE--

FIRRRRRRRRRRR--IEEE!

WHOOM

HE HIT ME WITH SUCH FORCE... I CAN'T SLOW DOWN!

I-- I CAN'T STOP!

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING--

THE BLAST OF CYLINDRICAL ENERGY WHISKS LUTHOR AWAY... THEN FADES AS QUICKLY AS IT MANIFESTED ITSELF...

BUT NOT BEFORE LEAVING AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE ENVIRONS...

A MARK AS REAL AS THE SURGE OF ELECTRICITY THAT SPLITS THE SKY DURING A STORM...AND AS INTANGIBLE AS THE GNAWING FEELING YOU GET IN THE PIT OF YOUR STOMACH WHEN YOU REALIZE SOMETHING IS HORRIBLY WRONG!

FAILURE.

I GRANT YOU THE CHANCE TO CONQUER YOUR ENEMY... TO HOLD YOUR WORLD LIKE A BAUBLE IN YOUR HAND... AND YOU BRING ME BACK FAILURE.

LET ME GO BACK THERE! I WAS CLOSE... SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS!

IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY.

THERE IS ONE AMONG YOU WHO MAY YET TRIUMPH...WHO MAY YET SHOW HIMSELF TO BE MORE RESOURCEFUL... THAN THE REST OF YOU COMBINED!

ANY SIGN OF LUTHOR? I COULDN'T HAVE KNOCKED HIM *THAT* HARD!

LORD KNOWS, I'M GROWING SELF-CONSCIOUS OF THAT THESE DAYS. IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I'LL GARNER A REPUTATION FOR SUPER-HERO BRUTALITY.

NO LUTHOR... BUT MY TELESCOPIC VISION HAS DISCOVERED SOMETHING ELSE.

THESE BIRDS...THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED SOMEHOW BY THE PENGUIN. HIS BIRDS ARE BUZZING NEARLY EVERY LARGE CITY IN THE COUNTRY.

WORSE YET, HE HAS AQUAMAN AND GREEN LANTERN AT HIS MERCY!

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? WE'VE GOT TO RUSH TO THEIR AID!

NOT "WE", MY FRIEND...IT'S UP TO *YOU*, MY SUPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP A DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM AN OLD FRIEND ON A NOW-DEFUNCT JLA EMERGENCY FREQUENCY...

...AND I FEEL OBLIGATED TO RUN TO HIS SIDE FIRST. DO YOU--

I UNDERSTAND. I'LL HANDLE THE PENGUIN!

"TELESCOPIC VISION." "SUPER HEARING"... HE HAS ALL OF *MY* POWERS AND MULTIPLIES THEM BY A FACTOR OF ONE HUNDRED! WHAT OTHER NAME COULD THERE BE FOR HIM BUT... SUPERMAN?

AT THAT MOMENT...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MADE MY RING MISFIRE, PENGUIN, BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN A SECOND TIME!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOUR JUNK JEWELRY, GREENBEAN! I DON'T HAVE TO!

NOT WHEN MY NEW POWER ENABLES ME TO SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINWAVES...

...MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MUSTER THE WILL POWER...

...TO USE THAT REPUGNANT RING!

AS FOR YOU, AQUAMAN, I CAN EASILY MANGLE YOUR MENTAL COMMANDS TO YOUR PETS!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

DOLPHINS... ATTACK!

CRACK

ASH

WAK

WAK

DON'T YOU WISH YOU WERE A TAD MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THAT?

MEANWHILE...

F-F-FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN F-F-FALLING FOR *HOURS!*

MY WINGS ARE *USELESS!* EVEN MY BELT OF *NINTH METAL* CAN'T KEEP ME ALOFT!

NOTHING IN MY *UTILITY BELT* WORKS! IT'S ALL BEEN... *CHANGED* SOMEHOW!

NATURALLY! YOU'RE ALL PRISONERS IN MY OWN PUH-*R!*-VATE DIMENSION...WHERE *NOTHING* WORKS... UNLESS *I* SAY IT DOES!

AND RIGHT *NOW*, I SAY YOU'LL *KEEP FALLING* THROUGH MY *BOTTOMLESS PIT*, UNTIL THE *FALL* KILLS YOU, OR DRIVES YOU *BATS*, BATS!

YOU MIGHT SAY... THE *BOTTOM'S* DROPPED OUT OF THE SUPER-HERO BIZ!

SUDDENLY...

JOKER!

ULP! UM... HE'S NOT IN? WHO SHALL I SAY IS *CALLING?*



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YOU NEED NOT REGISTER *FEAR*, JOKER! I AM *PLEASED* WITH YOUR EFFORTS THUS FAR! WERE I *DISSATISFIED*... YOU WOULD ALREADY *KNOW* IT!

SORRY... I, ER... THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE *ELSE*. SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

THE *INCOMPETENCE* OF ONE OF YOUR *FELLOWS!*

LUTHOR ALLOWED SUPERMAN TO ESCAPE! ALREADY, HE RACES TO ASSIST ONE OF YOUR PRISONERS-- THE ONE CALLED BATMAN!

LURE HIM INTO YOUR DIMENSION-- AND ASSURE THAT HIS STAY IS *NOT* A *PLEASANT* ONE!

ME AGAINST THE *SQUARE OF STEEL*, HEY?

YOU JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL COOK UP SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM WISH HE NEVER LEFT KRYPTON!

SEE THAT YOU DO! WE HAVE BROOKED *ONE* FAILURE...

...WE WILL NOT *TOLERATE* A *SECOND!*

ULP!

SIMULTANEOUSLY...

POUND HIM! PUMMEL HIM! PUNCH HIM!

SO MUCH FOR YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED MENTAL CONTROL OVER THE CREATURES OF THE SEA, AQUA-WASH-OUT!

MY BRAINPOWER IS MORE THAN-- EH?

I THOUGHT I'D FINISHED OFF THAT... THAT GREENHORN!

I ADDLED HIS BRAINS! I WIPED OUT HIS WILL POWER!

GREEN LANTERN CAN'T BE DOING THIS! HE CAN'T BE!

BOIKA BOIKA

I'M SUPPOSED--

--TO BE--

--IN CONTROL!

SPLASH

HEAVENS TO HALIBUT!

I'VE BEEN SLAMDUNKED!

OFF MY PERSON, YOU DUMB DOLPHINS! DOWN! HEEL! FETCH!

WHUMP

WOMB

THEY'RE NOT SO *DUMB*, PENGUIN! THEY REALIZE YOU'RE FOULING UP THE WATER!

TH-THE *FLASH!* BUT *HOW?*

"AT INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED, THAT'S HOW! I COMPLETELY ESCAPED YOUR NOTICE BY MOVING SO FAST YOU COULDN'T *SEE ME*...

"I SPED TO GREEN LANTERN'S SIDE AND BORROWED HIS RING, TO USE IT *MYSELF!*"

THE GREEN HELMET AROUND YOUR HEAD WILL KEEP YOU FROM USING YOUR NEW POWER ON *ME*~

--WHILE I KEEP THE COUNTRY FROM BEING... COOPED UP!

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CONTINUED ON 38P PAGE FOLLOWING.

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# NO STOPPING US NOW!

NOT TO MENTION HELPING MY JUSTICE LEAGUE PALS TO RE-COOPERATE!

RELAX, PENGUIN! THAT HELMET'S ON TO--

BOOOM

--STAY--!

GONE! THE PENGUIN IS GONE!

BUT SOMEHOW--INEXPLICABLY-- I SENSE HE'S LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND... SOME STRANGE, ALMOST INDELIBLE *IMPRINT* ON THESE SURROUNDINGS--

--WHICH MAY *NEVER* LEAVE!

HAD I SENT A POX-STRICKEN *CHILD* INTO BATTLE, I COULD NOT EXPECT A MORE *MISERABLE* PERFORMANCE!

IT IS ONLY *FORTUNATE* THAT THERE IS ONE OF YOU WHO MAV *YET* TURN THE TIDE...ONE WHO MAKES *YOU* LUOK LIKE THE WEAK KITTEN YOU ARE!

MEANWHILE...

AIN'T THIS-A SOM'T'ING? IT'S-A MY *EXPERIMENT* ONNA THE RATE OF-A *FALLING BODIES!*

I'M-A TOSS 'EM ALL OFF-A THE LEANING TOWER TO SEE WHICH-A ONE HITTA THE GROUND FIRST... ONLY I'M-A FORGET TO PUT IN-A THE *GROUND!*

SOME JOKE, EH, BOSS?

FOR MY *NEXT TRICK...*

ON-TRAY-VOO THE JOKER'S CHAPEAU CHÂTEAU!

AT LAST... IT'S OVER!

NOT *QUITE*, BOY WONDERBREAD... FOR, LIKE MOST MAGICIAN'S TOP HATS...

...*THIS* ONE'S GOT A *FALSE BOTTOM!* HEE HEE HEE HEE!

RRRIPP

OOPS! TIME FOR ME TO INVENT A WAY TO BRING A *FRIEND* OF YOURS HERE TO JOIN THE FUN!

CIAO! IT'S BEEN MORE THAN-A WONDERFUL TALKIN'-A TO YOU!

AND, NOT LONG AFTER...

THE SIGNAL SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THE *DAILY PLANET*--BUT THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*

SUPERMAN! THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE HERE!

WHAT'S THE *TROUBLE*, LOIS?

TROUBLE? YOU THINK *YOU'VE* GOT TROUBLES?

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE TROUBLES I'VE GOT... BETWEEN *YOU STRINGING ME ALONG* ALL THESE YEARS...

AND NOW *THIS* CLOWN STRINGING ME ALONG...!

THE *JOKER!* YOU...YOU *MADMAN!*

*MISTER* MADMAN TO YOU! AREN'T YOU THE SLIGHTEST BIT CURIOUS AS TO WHERE I'VE BROUGHT YOU?

YOU'RE TRAVELING IN ANOTHER *DIMENSION*. A DIMENSION THAT'S OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF *MIND!*

OUT OF *MY MIND*, THAT IS.

THERE'S THE SIGN POST UP AHEAD...

E=mc²

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THE JOKER ZONE!



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YOU KNOW WHAT? I BET YOU'RE FROM OUTER SPACE, LOST AND LOOKIN' FOR HOME!
C'MON, MISTER SPACEMAN. YOU AND ME ARE GONNA LOOK FOR YOUR HOME TOGETHER!
YOU'RE MORE SCARED THAN ME, AIN'T YOU? SOMEHOW THROUGH THAT RAY-BEAM OF YOURS, YOU LET ME FEEL HOW SCARED YOU ARE... AND... AND SOMETHIN' ELSE YOU'RE FEELIN'... YOU'RE FEELIN' FAR FROM HOME... FAR FROM THINGS YOU KNOW AND GREW UP WITH...
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I'M NOT HERE FOR *CHEAP LAUGHS*, JOKER! I'M HERE TO FIND MY *FRIENDS*! *WHERE ARE THEY?*

*RELAX*, MAN OF STEEL WOOL! THEY SHOULD BE *DROPPING BY* ANY SECOND!

IN FACT, *HERE* THEY ARE *NOW!*

WOO! WOOOO! IT'S THE 8:42!

WH-WHERE ARE THEY *FALLING* FROM?

THE *SAME* PLACE THEY'RE FALLING *TO*... ABSOLUTELY *NOWHERE!*

IN *MY* DIMENSION, WHAT I SAY *GOES*... AND THEY'RE *GOING*-- *DOWN*--AT A *RECORD-BREAKING* RATE!

NOW, LET'S SEE... WHAT FARFETCHED FATE CAN I CONCOCT FOR YOU?

HOW ABOUT *THIS*...AN ANCHOVY AND KRYPTONITE *BIRTHDAY CAKE*

GET RID OF IT, JOKER...GET...*RID* OF IT!

AH, YES! I'D FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH YOU *HATE* ANCHOVIES!

SILLY ME! THAT'S NOT EVEN KRYPTONITE! THAT'S PISTACHIO ICE CREAM! ANYWAY, WHAT FUN IS KRYPTONITE? NOW THAT YOU'RE STUCK IN MY DEMENTED DIMENSION, THERE ARE FAR MORE CREATIVE WAYS--

--TO KEEP YOU UNDER WRAPS!

SNAPP

YOU'RE PUSHING ME TOO FAR, JOKER...!

YOU BET I AM, SUPERFLUOUSMAN!

I'M GONNA PUSH YOU-- RIGHT OFF THE DEEP END!

THE JOKER'S MAKING A LOT OF RACKET... BUT MY SUPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP SOMETHING STRANGE... AN EXTRA HEARTBEAT!

THUMP THUM-THUMP THUM

DON'T WALK

COUNTING MYSELF, MY FRIENDS AND THE JOKER... THERE SHOULD BE FIVE OF US IN THIS DIMENSION... BUT I HEAR SIX HEARTBEATS.

THE JOKER MUST HAVE SOMEONE ELSE HERE... SOMEONE HE HASN'T LET ON ABOUT!

I'VE HAD IT WITH BEING *BOXED IN*, FELLA! IF YOU THINK I'LL REMAIN PART AND PARCEL OF YOUR PLANS--

--YOU'RE IN FOR A *SURPRISE!*

*PHOOEY!* I DON'T *LIKE* SURPRISE PACKAGES!

RRRIP!

NEITHER DO I! THAT'S WHY I'M USING MY *X-RAY VISION*--

-- TO SEE WHO ELSE SHARES THIS GHASTLY GLOOM WITH US. ANOTHER *CAPTIVE*, PERHAPS?

*CAPTIVE?* WHY, ER, *NO!* WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

NOBODY HERE

KEEP AWAY

DANGER RADIATION

JUST AS I THOUGHT! YOU DO HAVE ANOTHER HOSTAGE!

WHO *IS* THIS WOMAN?

ONLY THE WORLD'S BIGGEST *KILLJOY!*

*A HUNCH!*

YOU WERE NEVER LONG ON *SUBTLETY*, JOKER!

TH-THANK YOU, SUPERMAN!

I HAD NO *IDEA* WHAT I LET MYSELF IN FOR... WHEN I BECAME THE JOKER'S *THERAPIST!*

*SHRINK,* SHE MEANS! THE LAST *FOUR* OF THEM WOUND UP AS MY *ROOMMATES* AT *ARKHAM ASYLUM!* YOU'D THINK THAT'D MAKE *HER GIVE UP!*

BUT *NOOOOOOOOOO!*

YOU MEAN... YOU THINK YOU CAN *TREAT* HIM?

I'M NOT SURE *WHO'S* TREATABLE OR NOT...BUT I'M STILL WILLING TO GIVE IT A *TRY!*

TRY ALL YOU *LIKE!* I'LL STOP UP MY EARS AND SING "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANANA" AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS, THEN, I'LL--

THEN *I'LL FORCE* HIM TO LISTEN!

*HEY!* SINCE WHEN DID THIS BECOME *GROUP THERAPY?* STAY *OUTTA* THIS!

*AS DETERMINED AS EVER... THE YOUNG ANALYST GOES HEAD-TO-HEAD AGAINST HER INTRACTABLE CHARGE...*

THIS IS IMPORTANT, JOKER...

I WANT YOU TO THINK *BACK...* *BACK* TO YOUR *CHILDHOOD...*

...BACK... TO THOSE EARLY TRAUMAS...

"...THAT MADE YOU WHAT YOU'VE BECOME!

"YOUR MOTHER... SHE MISTREATED YOU, RIGHT?"

HOME SWEET HOME

DOES SNOOKUMS WANT TO PLAY A GAME OF CARDS?

LIKE 52 PICK-UP?

"AND YOUR FATHER... HE WAS NO BETTER?"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEEEEER JO-KIEEEE...

...HAPPPEEES BIIIIIRTHDAY TOOOO YOOOOOOOUUUU!

SPLOTCH

YES! YES! I'M REMEMBERING ALL OF IT! ALL OF IT!

YOU--YOU'VE DONE IT, YOU FARM-TEAM FREUD! YOU'VE DRIVEN ME--

GRRRACKKKK!

"SANE!

THANK RAO! IT WORKED!

ALL RIGHT! I'VE CALLED OFF MY LITTLE CLOUD-CUCKOO-LAND. YOUR BUDDY-PALS ARE *FREE!*

SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE! TYPE ME A RÉSUMÉ! GET ME A WALL STREET JOURNAL! FIND ME A JOB!

I WANNA BE A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETEEEEEE!

WHAT--- WHAT *WAS* THAT?

*PRESENT TENSE*, PARTNER! WHATEVER IT WAS... IT'S *STILL HERE!*

PERHAPS NOT WITH THE SAME *INTENSITY*... BUT IT LEFT BEHIND SOME *PRESENCE*... SOME INVISIBLE YET *UNMISTAKABLE MARK* TO SHOW IT'S BEEN HERE...

...AND WILL *RETURN!*

'22

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

THIS IS WHAT THE PSIONS DID TO TIGORR!

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ANOTHER FAILURE. THE *WORST* YET!

YOUR DEFEAT WAS NOT EVEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY A SUPER-HERO...BUT BY SOME LOWLY *EARTH WOMAN!*

GIVE ME ANOTHER *SHOT*, WILLYA? I'VE GOT MORE CARDS IN MY DECK *NOW* THAN I *EVER* HAD!

*"UNNECESSARY!* ONCE THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS, YOUR WORK WILL BE SEEN AS BUT *MINOR SKIRMISHES...* AS A *PRELUDE* TO *WAR!"*

SUCCEESS IS IMMINENT!

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MY NEW POWER, THE AMAZONS WILL REGRESS TO THEIR RUTHLESS, WAR-LOVING PAST!

PARADISE ISLAND, A PEACEABLE KINGDOM, WILL BECOME A STRONGHOLD, A BASE FOR THE MIGHTIEST ARMY THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

AN ARMY THAT WILL *OVERRUN* EVERY NATION...LAY WASTE TO EVERY CONTINENT...

...SO THAT I MIGHT SIT BACK... AND *WATCH!*

*AND IT ALL HAPPENS IN SUPER POWERS #3..."THE AMAZONS AT WAR!" MISSING IT... WOULD BE A MISTAKE OF COSMIC PROPORTIONS!*

**By Gary Cohn, Dan Mishkin, Paris Cullins and Pablo Marcos.**

**The new DC. There's no stopping us now!**

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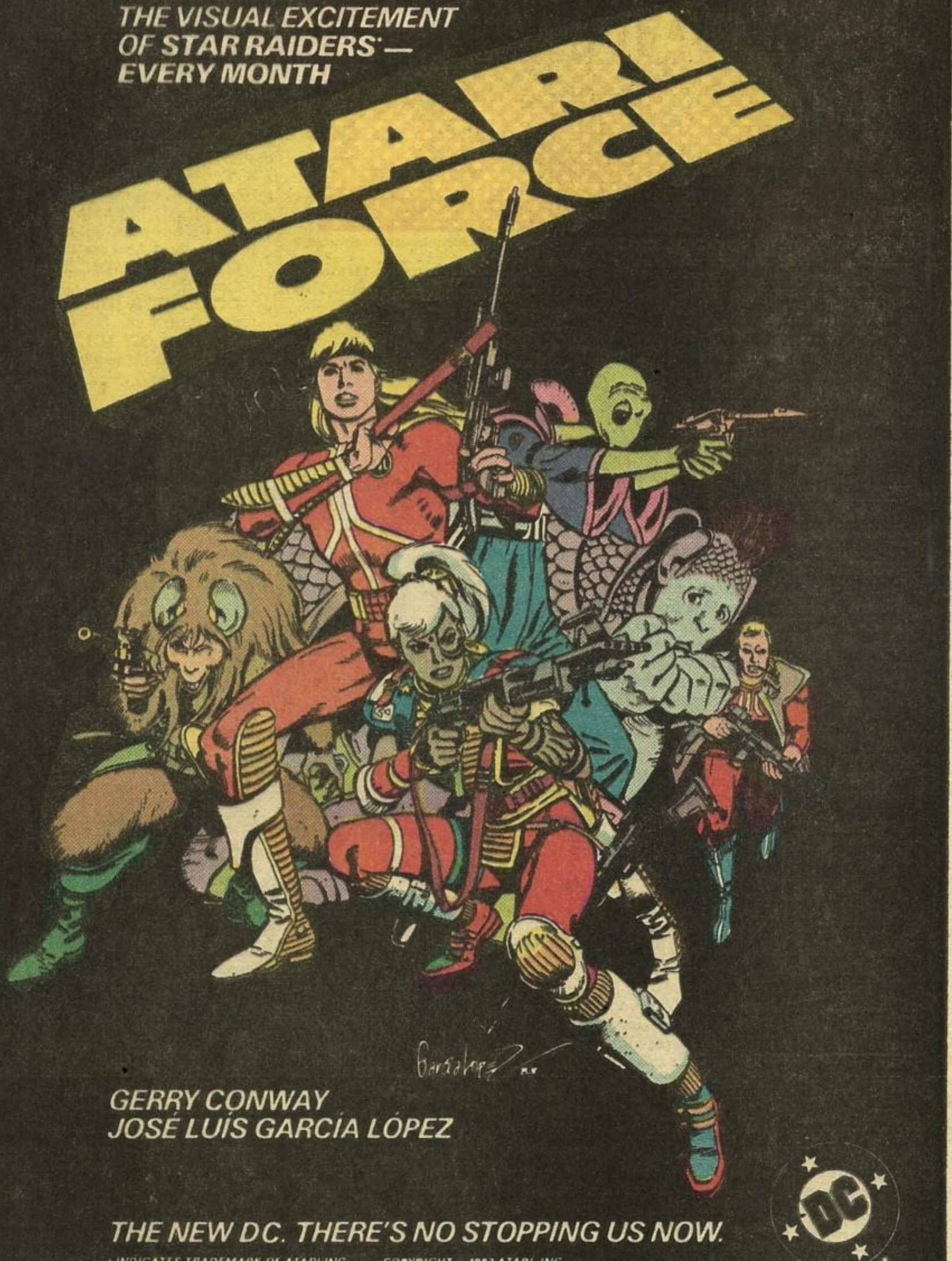
THE VISUAL EXCITEMENT OF STAR RAIDERS*— EVERY MONTH

# ATARI FORCE



GERRY CONWAY
JOSÉ LUÍS GARCÍA LÓPEZ

THE NEW D.C. THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.

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# MEANWHILE...

Psssttt, hey, buddy . . . want a free **Teen Titans** comic? Yep, **FREE**! Well, almost free. You do have to spring for whatever the postal service is charging for postcards this week. As you may know, we've produced two how-not-to drug books for the **President's Drug Awareness Campaign** featuring **The New Teen Titans**. These books were distributed in the nation's school systems and a limited edition of the first of these was sold in specialty shops. The profits and creator royalty shares from this sale were contributed to this worthwhile drug program. A sizeable check was recently sent and I wish to thank the thousands of **Teen Titans** fans and collectors for supporting this project. One of the ways we can say thanks is to offer the aforementioned free **Teen Titans** (how-not-to) drug book to anyone who requests it on a postcard (postcards only, please). Simply write to:

The President's Drug Awareness Campaign
Department #4122-M
Washington, DC 20229

I've got it! A way to reduce the quantity of **Meanwhile...** columns I have to write each month. Get someone else to write some.(Let's see... If I get one **Meanwhile...** column a month from **someone else**, that would be 12 guest columns subtracted from the 52 columns a year that I'm committed to do—hum, that leaves me only 40 to do—additionally, I can probably con the editors into a column or two. Hey, maybe this won't be so bad, after all.) Okay, who do I get to do these guest shots—?

I know—**you!**

Right! Want to write a **Meanwhile...** column, do you? Well, here's your chance. We'll publish the best guest column submitted by you, our readers, each month. Each winning entry will be published once in all the comics released by **DC Comics** in one week of the month starting no earlier than December 1984. The reader whose column is chosen for publication will receive a fee of $25.00 for the rights to publish his column. Of course there are rules (aren't there always?):

1. Subject matter must be related to comics or the comic book industry. It need not be complimentry to DC Comics or the industry. It must not be defamatory.
2. Column may not be longer than 1100 words. It can be shorter.
3. If illustrations are necessary, you must supply them with copyright permission.
4. We cannot return any entries. Send copies if you wish.
5. The decision of the judge (me!) is final. I cannot enter into debate concerning the reasons for my choice(s).
6. Since you must sign a release to be paid (and for us to publish) you will be informed by mail of our intention to publish before publication. Please include your full name and address.
7. We reserve the right to edit entries intended for publication at our discretion. However, we will never edit to deliberately alter the tone or subject matter of an entry.
8. Entries should be typed, double-spaced. I will consider entries that are printed clearly but **only** if they can be typeset (in our opinion) as is.
9. Have fun! And mail entries to:
   GUEST MEANWHILE
   Dept. N
   DC COMICS, INC.
   666 Fifth Ave.
   New York, NY 10103

Oh—the only thing you can't say is...
Thank you and good afternoon.

Dick

# SPOTLIGHT ON... JONAH HEX

Devoid of flashy costumes, secret identities, and the other hallmarks of super-heroism, **Jonah Hex** is nearly unique among mainstream comics in chronicling the life of an "ordinary" flesh-and-blood man. Gut-wrenching and powerful, its stories have made a living legend of its anti-heroic protagonist while steadfastly ignoring many of commercial comics' most passionately defended dogmas: that a title character must never marry or divorce, or, if he does marry, that his bride should have the decency to get herself murdered at the earliest opportunity; that the hero's parents should be conveniently dead so that he won't have to bother working out an adult relationship with them; that entire stories must never be devoted to the hero's early childhood or old age; that the circumstances of the hero's death must never be revealed. And yet, in all likelihood, it has been the willingness to disregard these strictures that has enabled **Jonah Hex** to survive while virtually every other comics Western has faded into oblivion.

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